

Colour Centres in 2-D hexagonal Boron Nitride

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Declaration of Authorship

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as part of the collaborative doctoral degree and/or fully acknowledged within the text. I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis. This research is supported by Australian Government research training programme.

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Abstract

Point defects in semiconductors show a rich spin and optoelectronic physics that can be exploited to fabricate qubits for quantum computing technology as well as for single photon sources for quantum cryptography. This thesis contains a detailed study of emission from point defects in hexagonal boron nitride using density functional theory (DFT) and quantum chemistry approaches with an objective to identify the source of observed single photon emission. A survey of possible defects responsible for observed emission is performed using computationally inexpensive generalized-gradient approximation (GGA), Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE) and those defects that form localized states with an energy gap of ~ 2 eV are picked for calculations using highly non-local Heyd-Scuseria-Ernzerhof hybrid functional (HSE06). The photoluminescence line shape is calculated and compared with experiment to propose the most likely defects causing the observed emission. The standard DFT approaches are found to be inaccurate when compared with *ab initio* CCSD(T), EOM-CCSD, and CASPT2 approaches in predicting the excited-state energies, especially when dealing with states which have considerable open shell character. Thus, a benchmarking scheme is proposed and correction factors are devised for DFT energies. Finally, limitations of the finite model compound used in *ab initio* calculations are discussed and a possible solution is presented. A complete optical cycle of the likely defects is predicted using results from the HSE06 DFT approach, that are corrected by applying results from the high-level *ab initio* calculations. Finally, group theoretical analysis of defects is performed and possible applications in quantum computation technology are proposed.

Division of thesis

The division of this thesis is as follows. In Chapter 1, the overall theme of this work and how different concepts fit together is presented. In Chapter 2, the relevant experimental and theoretical literature is reviewed regarding the properties of emitters in h-BN and the context of the present work is presented in detail. In Chapter 3, the computational methods used in this thesis are presented. Chapter 4 contains the results for a survey of different possible emitting centres in h-BN. In Chapter 5, hyperfine coupling parameters are presented and comparisons are made with the experiments. Chapter 6 discusses inaccuracies in DFT energies and compares the calculated energies with ab initio CCSD(T), EOM-CCSD, and CASPT2 approaches. Correction factors for the DFT calculations are also proposed. Chapter 7 contains a study of the spectroscopy of likely defects responsible for the emission from h-BN using the DFT (HSE06) results, after applying correction factors devised in Chapter 6. and proposed optical cycles of the defects. The calculated photoluminescence line shapes for selected transitions are also presented. Polarization of allowed transitions are identified along with spin-orbit coupling driving non-radiative transitions. Zero-field splitting parameters are also presented and potential applications of the studied emitters in quantum applications proposed. Finally, a brief summary of the outcomes of this thesis and proposed future studies are presented.

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5. Z. Xu, C. Elbadawi, T. T. Tran, M. Kianinia, X. Li, D. Liu, T. Hoffman, M. A. Nguyen, S. Kim, J. Edgar, X. Wu, L. Song, **Sajid, A.**, M. Ford, M. Toth, and I. Aharonovich, Single photon emission from plasma treated 2D hexagonal boron nitride. *Nanoscale* **2018**, 10 (17), 7957-7965.
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3. **Sajid A.** Opto-Electronic Properties of Li_2C_2 Polymorphs. *Madridge J Nano Tech.* **2017**, 2(1), 74-76.
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Table of Contents

Abstract.....	i
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 Review of Literature	4
2.1 <i>The role of single photon sources in quantum technologies.....</i>	5
2.2 <i>Defects in semi-conductors as single photon emitters.....</i>	6
2.3 <i>Properties of SPE's in h-BN.....</i>	7
2.3.1 <i>ZPL energy</i>	9
2.3.2 <i>Strain tunability.....</i>	10
2.3.3 <i>Emission dipole</i>	11
2.3.4 <i>Interaction with vibrational modes.....</i>	13
2.3.5 <i>Magnetic state.....</i>	14
2.3.6 <i>Temperature dependence</i>	14
2.3.7 <i>Hyperfine coupling.....</i>	15
2.3.8 <i>Zero field splitting</i>	16
2.4 <i>The theoretical/computational modelling</i>	17
2.4.1 <i>This work</i>	17
2.4.2 <i>Other's work</i>	19
2.4.3 <i>Major theoretical/computational challenges.....</i>	19
Chapter 3 Theoretical methods and Computational details	23
3.1 <i>Quantum chemistry methods and density functional theory (DFT).....</i>	23
3.1.1 <i>Many body problem and quantum mechanics</i>	24
3.1.2 <i>Hohenberg-Kohn and Kohn-Sham theorems</i>	26

3.1.3	<i>Exchange-Correlational function</i>	28
3.2	<i>Density functional theory for excited states</i>	31
3.2.1	<i>Time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT)</i>	31
3.2.2	<i>ΔSCF method</i>	31
3.3	<i>Group theory</i>	32
3.4	<i>Computational parameters</i>	33
Chapter 4	A survey of defects in h-BN	36
4.1	<i>Potential defect in h-BN</i>	36
4.2	<i>Thermodynamic charge transition levels and optical transition levels for $V_N N_B$, $V_N C_B$ and $V_B C_N$</i>	41
Chapter 5	Hyperfine Interaction	47
5.1	<i>Three-boron centre defects (TBC)</i>	48
5.1.1	<i>Negatively charged nitrogen vacancy V_N^{-1}</i>	49
5.1.2	<i>Uncharged nitrogen vacancy V_N</i>	49
5.1.3	<i>C_N centre (substitutional carbon impurity)</i>	51
5.2	<i>One-Boron centre defect (OBC)</i>	51
5.2.1	<i>$V_N O_{2B}$ centre</i>	52
5.3	<i>Anti-site defect $V_N N_B$</i>	52
5.4	<i>Carbon and silicon related centres at nitrogen and boron vacancies $V_N C_B$, $V_B C_N$, $V_B C_N Si_N$ and $V_N C_B Si_B$</i>	53
Chapter 6	Benchmarking the applied DFT functionals	56
6.1	<i>Benchmarking the excited states of $V_N C_B$</i>	56
6.1.1	<i>Triplet states</i>	61
6.1.2	<i>Closed-shell singlet states</i>	64
6.1.3	<i>Open-shell singlet states</i>	66
6.1.4	<i>Geometry optimization and chemical forces</i>	67
6.2	<i>Benchmarking the excited states of $V_N N_B$</i>	72

6.2.1	<i>New methods for determining defect excited state geometries and energies using VASP.</i>	82
6.2.2	<i>Ab Initio and DFT calculations for the neutral $V_N N_B$ model compound.</i>	85
6.2.3	<i>The +1 and -1 charged states of $V_N N_B$.</i>	89
Chapter 7	Level Structure of $V_N C_B$, $V_B C_N$ and $V_N N_B$	93
7.1	<i>Level structure of $V_N C_B$ and $V_B C_N$.</i>	93
7.1.1	<i>The spin-orbit Hamiltonian</i>	98
7.1.2	<i>Spin-Spin interactions</i>	99
7.1.3	<i>Dipole allowed transitions and ground Triplet-State spin Polarization</i>	100
7.2	<i>The level structure of $V_N N_B$ defect (neutral, +1 and -1 charge state)</i>	101
7.2.1	<i>$V_N N_B$ defect</i>	101
7.2.2	<i>The +1 and -1 charged states of $V_N N_B$.</i>	104
7.2.2.1	<i>Spin-spin interactions and possible applications to quantum information.</i>	105
7.2.2.2	<i>The spin-orbit Hamiltonian</i>	106
7.2.2.3	<i>Spin-spin interactions</i>	106
7.2.2.4	<i>Dipole allowed transitions and possibility of achieving long lived quantum memory from $V_N N_B^{-1}$ and $V_N N_B^{+1}$</i>	107
Chapter 8	Conclusion	109
Appendix		126

List of Figures

Figure 2.1 Major requirements that an SPE should meet to be employed in quantum technologies [13,35,57]... 6	6
Figure 2.2 Configuration co-ordinate diagram showing important energies and optical transitions. 8	8
Figure 2.3 Simulated Spectral distribution as a function of strain. The cartoon in the inset shows the lattice directions in the plane of hexagonal lattice with respect to $V_N N_B$ defect. Four independent directions can be identified; two along zigzag directions, ZZ1 and ZZ2 and two along the armchair directions, AC1 AND AC2. The main plot is simulated optical response in the form of imaginary part of dielectric function (ξ_2) as a function of the strain applied in either zigzag or armchair direction. The simulation takes into account the effect of high Poisson's ratio of the PC substrate of 0.37 that induces a compression (stretching) in the orthogonal direction with respect to the direction where tensile (compressive) strain is applied. The black graph shows the imaginary part of the dielectric function at zero strain. The graphs in red (blue) tones correspond to tensile strain applied along the AC2 (ZZ1) direction from 1 to 5%. In these conditions, the Poisson's ratio of PC substrate results in compression in the orthogonal direction from -0.27 to -1.85%. 11	11
Figure 4.1 Atomic structures of the defects in Table 4.1. SWX denotes Stone–Wales defects, and VCompX denotes complex vacancy defects. 37	37
Figure 4.2 Eq/q' as a function of vacuum size LZ. 44	44
Figure 4.3 Configuration co-ordinate diagram showing transition involving capture of a hole (ejection of an electron) by $V_N N_B$ 45	45
Figure 5.1 Geometrical structure and isosurface of the calculated spin density for the neutral V_N centre in h-BN shown from (001) plane at isovalue $0.001/\text{\AA}^3$. Spin density is concentrated on the labelled atoms, providing significant hyperfine couplings. 50	50
Figure 5.2 Geometrical structure and isosurface of the calculated spin density for C_N centre in h-BN shown from (001) plane at isovalue $0.001/\text{\AA}^3$. Spin density is concentrated on the labelled atoms, providing significant hyperfine couplings. 51	51
Figure 5.3 Geometrical structure and isosurface of the calculated spin density for $V_N O_{2B}$ centre in h-BN shown from (001) plane at isovalue $0.001/\text{\AA}^3$. Spin density is concentrated on the labelled atoms, providing significant hyperfine couplings. 52	52
Figure 5.4 Geometrical structure and isosurface of the calculated spin density for $V_N N_B$ centre in h-BN shown from (001) plane at isovalue $0.001/\text{\AA}^3$. Spin density is concentrated on the labelled atoms, providing significant hyperfine couplings. 53	53
Figure 5.5 Geometrical structure and isosurface of the calculated spin density for $V_N C_B$ (isovalue $0.003/\text{\AA}^3$), $V_B C_N$ (isovalue $0.004/\text{\AA}^3$), $V_B C_N Si_N$ (isovalue $0.001/\text{\AA}^3$) and $V_N C_B Si_B$ (isovalue $0.001/\text{\AA}^3$) centres in h-BN shown from (001) plane. Spin density is concentrated on the labelled atoms, providing significant hyperfine couplings. 54	54
Figure 6.1 The $V_N C_B$ defect in which a nitrogen vacancy is neighbored by a carbon substituting boron is represented as either (a) a lattice of periodic defects or (b) a model compound with C_{2v} symmetry. On relaxation below C_{2v} symmetry, the model compound forms 3-D structures (c) and (d). An expanded model compound is (e). Cyan- carbon, blue- nitrogen, peach- boron, white- hydrogen. 58	58
Figure 6.2 Critical orbitals largely associated with the defect site in $V_N C_B$ 59	59
Figure 6.3 Some of the observed emission spectra [75,200] of defect sites in h-BN used to estimate reorganization energies λ : (a) red- from Jungwirth and Fuchs [75], $\lambda = 0.17$ eV, (b) blue- from Tawfik et al. [200], $\lambda = 0.09$ eV, and (c) green- simulated for the $(2)^1A_1 \rightarrow (1)^1A_1$ calculated transition of $V_N N_B^{-1}$, $\lambda = 0.11$ eV... 74	74
Figure 6.4 The geometrical structure of the $V_N N_B$ defect, in which a nitrogen vacancy is neighbored by a nitrogen substituting boron, is represented as either (a) a model compound constrained to C_{2v} symmetry or (b) a	

rectangular ($6 \times 4\sqrt{3}$)R30° unit cell representing a periodic 2D lattice of such defects; N- blue, B- peach, H- white. Allowed in-plane spectroscopic transitions may be polarized along the indicated a_1 and b_2 axes, while b_1 transitions are polarized out-of-plane and a_2 transitions are forbidden. Dashed red lines indicate defect B-B distances of 1.92 Å and 2.53 Å, respectively, for its $(1)^2B_1$ ground state, both much larger than the BN bond length of 1.44 Å. 76

Figure 6.5 Shown for the example of neutral V_NN_B in 2D h-BN are: (central) defect orbitals localized within the h-BN valence-conduction band gap, and (flanks) key DFT orbitals from the $(1)^2B_1$ ground-state electronic structure of V_NN_B , constrained to planar C_{2v} symmetry. 76

Figure 6.6 Possible occupancies (a) when 3 unpaired electrons distribute into 3 orbitals (resulting in two doublet states and one quartet), and (b) when 2 unpaired electrons distribute into 2 orbitals (resulting in one singlet state and one triplet). 78

Figure 7.1 (a) Orbitals localized within the h-BN valence-conduction band gap from the periodic V_NC_B . (b) Key DFT orbitals from the $(1)^1A_1$ closed-shell ground-state electronic structure of V_NC_B . The states are labelled according to the symmetry of Irreducible representation as per C_{2v} point group. $x(y,z)$ -axis are perpendicular(in the) to the plane of defect. (b) HSE06 adiabatic energies of low lying states of V_NC_B as calculated by DFT, with, in (), these energies corrected according to *ab initio* CCSD(T), EOM-CCSD, and CASPT2 calculations for a model compound [82]. Allowed transition polarizations d , spin-orbit couplings λ driving non-radiative transitions and zero-field splittings are also indicated. 94

Figure 7.2 The calculated line shape for $(1)^3B_1 \rightarrow (2)^3B_1$ transition for V_NC_B superimposed on exp. Line shape for ref. [44]. 96

Figure 7.3 (a) Orbitals localized within the h-BN valence-conduction band gap from the periodic V_NC_B . (b) Key DFT orbitals from the $(1)^3B_2$ ground-state electronic structure of V_NC_N (the axis conventions are same as for V_NC_B). (c) HSE06 adiabatic energies of low lying states of V_NC_N as calculated by DFT, with, in (), these energies corrected according to *ab initio* CCSD(T), EOM-CCSD, and CASPT2 calculations for a model compound of V_NC_B . Allowed transition polarizations d , spin-orbit couplings λ driving non-radiative transitions, and zero-field splittings are also indicated. 97

Figure 7.4 (a) Orbitals localized within the h-BN valence-conduction band gap from the periodic (b) Key DFT orbitals from the $(1)^2B_1$ ground-state electronic structure of V_NN_B . The states are labelled according to the symmetry of Irreducible representation as per C_{2v} point group. $x(y,z)$ -axis are perpendicular to (in the) plane of defect. (c) HSE06 adiabatic energies of low lying states of V_NN_B as calculated by DFT, with, in (), these energies corrected according to *ab initio* CCSD(T), EOM-CCSD, and CASPT2 calculations for a model compound. Allowed transition polarizations d are also indicated. 102

Figure 7.5 HSE06 adiabatic energies of low lying states of 2D $V_NN_B^{+1}$ (left) and $V_NN_B^{-1}$ (right), as calculated by DFT, with, in () for $V_NN_B^{+1}$, these energies corrected according to *ab initio* CCSD(T), EOM-CCSD, and CASPT2 calculations for the model compound. Allowed transition polarizations in the a_1 , b_1 , and b_2 directions (see Fig. 6.4) are also indicated. 104

List of Tables

Table 3.1 Character table for C_{2v} point group. The two rightmost columns show the functions which transform under a particular irreducible representation. Here, (x, y, z) stand for a polar vector, while (R_x, R_y, R_z) for an axial vector.....	32
Table 4.1 The calculated electronic transition energy of the spin-up defect state, $ET \uparrow$, the spin-down defect state, $ET \downarrow$, whether the transition is from/to the bulk band, and whether the transition is optically allowed (energy reported wherever transition is allowed), and the polarization of the defects displayed in Fig. 2(a). I determined whether a defect belongs to the bulk bands by inspecting the defect band structure and observing the proximity of the defect level to the conduction or valence band, as well as the defect level dispersion. The polarization of the defect is determined by the optical absorption spectrum of the defect along different polarization axes; an absorption peak that exists in one polarization axis but not in the others is an optically polarized defect. All energies are reported in units of eV.....	38
Table 4.2 The calculated ZPL energy EZPL (in eV) and the ΔQ in $\text{amu}^{1/2}\text{\AA}$ for the defects (defined in eqn. (4.1))	40
Table 4.3 Thermodynamic transition levels and Optical transition levels of $V_N N_B$, $V_N C_B$ and $V_B C_N$ calculated at HSE06 levels.	45
Table 5.1 The average principle values of the HF coupling tensor $(A_{xx} + A_{yy} + A_{zz})/3$, in MHz, calculated without (with) core contribution, listing the atoms with dominant spin polarization, for various ground-state (GS) defects in h-BN, with as well as the nature of a related feasible PL state and its transition energy $h\nu$. The Isotope B^{11} and N^{14} have been used in this study.	48
Table 6.1 Energies (in eV) of various states of the $V_N C_B$ model compound (Fig. 6.1b) with respect to $(1)^1A_1$, evaluated at the test geometry. ^a	60
Table 6.2 Dominant state occupancies and details of CASPT2 and MRCIC calculations.	61
Table 6.3 Corrections to add to DFT calculated transition energies from $(1)^1A_1$ (second column, in eV), determined from averaged differences in transition energies predicted by the methods listed in the rows compared to those in the later columns, for the $V_N C_B$ model compound (Fig. 6.1b), evaluated at a test geometry.....	63
Table 6.4 At the reference geometry, the second column shows the CCST(T) calculated triplet-state energy differences ΔE compared to $(1)^3B_1$, in eV, adapted from Table 6.1, while the remaining columns show the differences from these results obtained using other computational methods, again in eV.....	63
Table 6.5 Energies (in eV) of various states of the $V_N C_B$ model compound and related periodic 2-D material (Fig. 6.1), evaluated at their adiabatic minimum-energy geometries, as well as the HSE06 free-energy correction ΔG_{corr} , in eV at 298 K, the nature of any imaginary frequencies, the reorganization energies λ depicting the width, in eV, of spin-allowed photoabsorption (and approximately PL) spectra from either the $(1)^1A_1$ (singlet) ground state or the $(1)^3B_1$ (triplet) ground state.	68
Table 6.6 Considered state symmetries, their dominant orbital occupancies, and their transition polarizations from the ground state.	77
Table 6.7 Energies of the singdoublet state ED1, tripdoubtlet state ED3, and quartet state EQ extracted from combinations (Eqn. 6.4) of energies determined for single-configurational wavefunctions specified in Fig. 6.6, E1a, E2a, E3a, and E4a. Geometries are obtained by optimizing the energy of the single determinants only, with the final results for the singdoublet and tripdoubtlet states taken to be those for the minimum found at the three structures.	82

Table 6.8 Energies (in eV) of various excited states of the $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}$ model compound (Fig. 6.4a) with respect to $(1)^2B_1$, performed at a reference geometry determined for $(1)^2B_1$, depicting calculated vertical excitation energies.	87
Table 6.9 Corrections to add to DFT calculated transition energies from $(1)^2B_1$ (second column, in eV), determined from averaged differences in transition energies predicted by the methods listed in the rows compared to those in the later columns, for the $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}$ model compound (Fig. 6.4a), evaluated at a test geometry. ^a	88
Table 6.10 Energies with respect to the $(1)^1B_1$ ground state of various excited states of the $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}$ model compound and related periodic 2-D material (Fig. 6.4), evaluated at their adiabatic minimum-energy geometries, oscillator strengths in absorption calculated using TDDFT, and the absorption reorganization energies λ depicting the width of the bands.....	88
Table 6.11 Energies (in eV) of various states of neutral $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}$ (both the 2D periodic structure and the model compound, see Fig. 6.4a) with respect to $(1)^2B_1$	89
Table 6.12 Energies of various excited states of the $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}^{+1}$ and $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}^{-1}$ model compound and related periodic 2-D material (Fig. 6.4a), with respect to their $(1)^1A_1$ ground states, evaluated at their adiabatic minimum-energy geometries, oscillator strengths in absorption, and the reorganization energies λ depicting the width of the bands.	91
Table 7.1 The Non-vanishing components of spin-orbit interaction for $V_{\text{N}}C_{\text{B}}$ and $V_{\text{B}}C_{\text{N}}$. The quantities in rows and columns represent the symmetry of the spatial part of wave function for ground and first excited states of $V_{\text{N}}C_{\text{B}}$ and $V_{\text{B}}C_{\text{N}}$	98
Table 7.2 The Non-vanishing components of spin-orbit interaction for $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}^{-1}$. The quantities in rows and columns represent the symmetry of the spatial part of wave function for ground and first excited states of $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}^{-1}$	106
Table 0.1 The calculated principle values of HF tensor on nearby atoms at distance d from the defect centre, in MHz, for various ground-state (GS) defects in h-BN, with also the average principle values of the HF coupling tensor $(A_{\text{xx}}+A_{\text{yy}}+A_{\text{zz}})/3$. Key interatomic distances d are also listed.	126
Table 0.2 Bond lengths around $V_{\text{N}}N_{\text{B}}$, $V_{\text{N}}C_{\text{B}}$, $V_{\text{B}}C_{\text{N}}$, $N_{\text{V}}B_{\text{C}}B_{\text{Si}}$ and $B_{\text{V}}N_{\text{C}}N_{\text{Si}}$ centres.	127
Table 0.3 Comparison of HSE06 energies of $V_{\text{N}}C_{\text{B}}$ defect with size of the model compound (MC), MC's consisting of 25, 57 and 101 atoms are compared with periodic structures of $V_{\text{N}}C_{\text{B}}$	127